

own. My plan would help put a basic health insurance plan within reach of this mom and millions of uninsured Americans like her.

Second, we must help States that are developing innovative ways to cover the uninsured. States that make basic private health insurance available to all their citizens should receive Federal funds to help them provide this coverage to the poor and the sick. I have proposed using existing Federal funds to create Affordable Choices grants. These grants would give our Nation's Governors more money and flexibility to get basic private health insurance to those most in need.

Over the next few weeks, I will be talking more about my energy and health care proposals. We've set important goals, and now Republicans and Democrats must work together to make them a reality. Together we can reduce our dependence on oil, improve health care for more of our citizens, and make life better for all our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on January 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Esmerelda Wergin, waitress, Ninfa's Tortilla and Taqueria. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck

January 28, 2007

Laura and I were saddened to learn of the death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck. Deb had a distinguished, decades-long career as a journalist, covering every Presidential campaign since 1980 and joining the New York Post's Washington bureau in 1988. Deb fought a valiant battle against cancer with the same tenacity, devotion, and determination that she brought to her work in the White House briefing room through numerous administrations.

Laura and I send our condolences to Deb's husband, Neville Eilbeck, and to her family, friends, and colleagues. She will be missed

by all of us at the White House who cared deeply for her.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Members of the Securing America's Future Energy Organization

January 29, 2007

A group of our fellow citizens from around the country, different backgrounds, have given me a report called "Recommendations to the Nation on Reducing U.S. Oil Dependence." These citizens have spent time thinking about the national security implications for a country which is dependent on oil from hostile regimes or sources of oil that could be affected by terrorist attack. And I really want to thank you for this comprehensive approach to reducing our dependency on oil. Some really smart ideas in here.

The reason I have asked to come and talk to them is, I wanted to assure them that this administration is committed, as well, to diversifying away from our reliance upon oil. And I believe, like they believe, that we've got fantastic opportunities to use new technologies to secure the American people and, at the same time, be better stewards of the environment.

Their plan and my plan are very—have got commonalities, and we're going to work together to get Congress to enact a comprehensive plan. I believe there's an appetite in the halls of Congress to become less dependent on oil. I believe there's a knowledge in Congress that when we spend money on cellulosic ethanol that will make us less dependent on oil.

And I'm going to continue to call upon citizens' groups and concerned citizens to work with Members of Congress so we can—I can sign a comprehensive plan that will assure the American people that as we look forward into the 21st century that we'll be more energy dependent and good stewards of the environment.

So thank you for your efforts. I appreciate your work. I'm honored to be at the table with citizens who care enough about their country that they would take time out of their private lives and present me with this comprehensive view.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on the Situation in Lebanon

January 29, 2007

I am deeply disappointed by the recent violence and bloodshed on the streets of Lebanon. It is all the more troubling that the violence occurred while Lebanon's legitimate leaders and friends were gathered together in Paris to help secure a peaceful and prosperous future for the country. Lebanon's friends have pledged a total of \$7.6 billion at the International Conference on Support for Lebanon. I will ask Congress for \$770 million to contribute to this cause. With this pledge, total U.S. support for Lebanon since last summer's conflict, including the \$230 million pledged at the Stockholm Conference last August, will equal approximately \$1 billion. This is a strong symbol of the American people's support for and commitment to the future of Lebanon.

All those who seek a peaceful, constitutional solution to the crisis in Lebanon deserve the support of the international community, but those responsible for creating chaos must be called to account. While Lebanon's friends seek to help the Lebanese Government build a free, sovereign, and prosperous country, Syria, Iran, and Hizballah are working to destabilize Lebanese society. Their goals are clear. They foment violence in order to prevent the establishment of a special tribunal in response to former Prime Minister Hariri's assassination, to prevent full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Hizballah's disarmament, and to bring down Lebanon's democratically elected Government, in violation of its Constitution. The United States will continue to support Lebanon's Government as it seeks a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Lebanon.

Memorandum on Transfer of Funds Under Section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

January 26, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007-11

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfer of Funds Under Section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2360) (the "Act"), I hereby determine it necessary for the purposes of that Act that up to \$86.362 million in fiscal year 2006 funds made available under chapter 4 of part II of the Act be transferred to, and consolidated with, funds made available under chapter 8 of part I of the Act, and such funds are hereby so transferred and consolidated.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30.

Remarks Following Breakfast With Small-Business Leaders in Peoria, Illinois

January 30, 2007

I'm here in Peoria for a couple of reasons. One, I'm looking forward to going to a great American company, Caterpillar, and talking about the importance of opening up markets for U.S. products, because when Caterpillar sells its products overseas, it helps people find work here in Peoria. But equally importantly, I'm here with some business entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs.

Here are my impressions. One, the business sector, small-business sector of the heartland is strong. And it's really strong because of low taxes. But it's also strong because of—the entrepreneurial spirit is strong. You can't have a good business unless you have somebody willing to lead that business.